

went to Millard South High School, but he played hockey for Westside and the Fremont team my kids played on. They got to compete against him and know him as a competitor.

He enjoyed hunting, being in the outdoors. He especially enjoyed the water. He was a Boy Scout in Troop 331. He loved spending time with his family and friends. He was a member of his local church, the Lutheran church of Millard, St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Millard.

Like so many Nebraskans, he was a die-hard sports fan, his favorite team being the Chicago Blackhawks.

Corporal Page gave the last full measure of devotion to his country. His mission was clear. In the chaos of Kabul, Corporal Page was there to protect and save lives, and that is exactly what he did. Marines held the line and pulled both Americans and our Afghan allies to safety. Marines pulled children out of hell, gave them water, and got them to safety.

Corporal Page gave his life so that others would live. Nebraskans will never forget him. Heroes like Corporal Page didn't fail us, and we can't forget them. We must keep our promise to honor his family, to teach our families about their sacrifice, and to strive to live lives of gratitude. It is times like this where we rediscover the heart of our country. Communities that pull together—as happened last Friday and will happen this Friday at his funeral at St. Paul's Lutheran—we pray together, make meals for each other, and we are reminded of the sacrifice so many families have made.

Today, and in the days to come, we in Nebraska will honor Corporal Page, and we across this country will honor the 13 who fell that day. Your sacrifice is a debt we can never repay.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

HONORING LANCE CORPORAL DAVID LEE ESPINOZA

Mr. CRUZ. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the life of David Lee Espinoza, who died in defense of our Nation on August 26.

David was a marine who was helping with the evacuation of the Kabul airport when he was murdered by a suicide bomber, along with 12 other service men and women who so senselessly had their lives taken from them that day. His mother got the call that every parent of every servicemember fears when she was told at 2:30 in the morning that her son had lost his life in Afghanistan.

David was just 20 years old. David was a lifelong Texan. He was born in Laredo and raised nearby in Rio Bravo, where he was the eldest of four children.

David always wanted to be a marine. And as a child, he loved to consider different military strategies as he played with toy soldiers. David joined the Marines the summer after he graduated from LBJ High School in Laredo in

2019, and he spent time serving in Jordan before being sent to Kabul the week before he died. It has been said that other service branches wanted David to join their ranks, but David always knew he was meant to be a marine.

David was a beloved son, a brother, a friend, and a fellow marine. He was a patriot who had a passion for service, and our Nation can never repay the debt that we owe to David and to his family for giving what President Lincoln hailed as "the last full measure of devotion."

Yesterday, at David's funeral mass, Father Francisco Stodola said:

As tragic as this loss is, and as deep as the wounds of sorrow have pierced the hearts of his loved ones, and particularly his mother—because a mother would rather lose an arm or a leg than to have to lose a child—we can console ourselves with the fact that David died doing what he wanted to do with the people he wanted to do it with.

We will remember David and the incredible sacrifice he gave for our country. He will also be remembered by his community. The Laredo City Council has already voted to name the road in front of LBJ High School, David's alma mater, as the "Lance Corporal David Lee Espinoza Memorial Boulevard."

To David's parents, Elizabeth Holguin and Victor Manuel Dominguez, and to his siblings, Angel Martin Espinoza, Victor Manuel Dominguez, Jr., and Delilah Alyssa Dominguez, I want to say that your son and your brother was a brave patriot who will never be forgotten. Heidi and I are lifting you up in prayer as you mourn the loss of your beloved David.

The 91st Psalm is sometimes called the soldier's or the warrior's psalm because it asks the Lord for protection against many foes, and it assures us that the Lord will be with us in times of trouble:

Because he loves me, says the Lord, I will rescue him;

I will protect him, for he acknowledges my name.

He will call on me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble.

I will deliver him and honor him.

David's sacrifice was not in vain. He died as he lived, giving of himself in the service of others. David now rests from his labors, having been a good and faithful servant.

And to the families of all of those whose lives were lost in Afghanistan this year and in the 20 years that preceded it, know that your sacrifice, know that your loss was not in vain. America is better. America is safer. American lives are more secure because your sons and daughters answered the call. America is better and safer and more secure because David Espinoza answered the call. Texas and America are better for having known him, and we are in his debt.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Missouri.

HONORING LANCE CORPORAL JARED SCHMITZ

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, I rise today to join my colleagues in hon-

oring the 13 servicemembers who were killed in action in Afghanistan last month doing what only the bravest and the most extraordinary Americans do: risking their lives to save others.

Every name has been mentioned on the floor today, but no matter how often we mention those names, we can't restore those individuals to their families. We can't restore them to their communities. We can't restore them to the people they served side by side with in the military.

But we can remember what they did—what they did collectively, and what they did individually.

One of the marines we tragically lost in the attack at Kabul airport was Lance Corporal Jared Schmitz of Wentzville, MO. He was just 6 months old on 9/11. In fact, we have seen that discussion many times of people who now give their life who were babies or not yet born on 9/11, 20 years ago.

Even though he was 6 months old on 9/11, he knew what he wanted to be, and he knew he wanted to be a marine by the time he was a sophomore in high school. He started training as a teenager, years before he enlisted. After graduating from Fort Zumwalt South High School in St. Peters, MO, he realized his dream. He joined the Marines and served as an infantryman.

Jared's father Mark Schmitz says his son—this is his father's quote and it is a great thing to be able to say about your son. Mark Schmitz said his son "looked out for everybody. Anyone who needed help, he was there. He was selfless. He never put himself first."

Of course, we see another moment when he and the others whose lives were lost and others who were injured—some dramatically injured—didn't put themselves first; they put others first.

Friends remember Jared as energetic, as happy, as a faithful fan of the St. Louis Blues. Others will remember him as 1 of 56 Missourians who made the ultimate sacrifice as part of the either Operation Enduring Freedom or Operation Freedom's Sentinel.

We remember and honor each and every one of these heroes from our State and heroes from every State who have given their lives for freedom in this post-9/11 world, where we don't know exactly where the borders are or who—where the enemy might be at any given time, whether they are going to strike at home, where we live, or whether they are going to strike far away, where others are representing us and defending us. We remember and honor each of them.

We pray for their families and all who will feel the loss for the rest of their lives. We need to now do our part every day to live lives worthy of their sacrifice, never taking for granted the freedom and security we have because they were called to serve and support it and guarantee it for another generation.

I know I join all my colleagues on both sides of the aisle as we think of

those who are serving today, those who are willing to pay the ultimate cost and, particularly today, as we focus on these 13 individuals who did pay that price.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Massachusetts.

NOMINATION OF ANGEL KELLEY

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. President, I rise to speak in support of the confirmation of Judge Angel Kelley to serve as a judge on the U.S. District Court for the District of Massachusetts.

In a legal career that has already spanned almost 30 years, Judge Kelley has excelled in everything she has done, and she has done a lot. She has been a trial attorney, a legal instructor, and a State court judge in my home State of Massachusetts.

She has devoted her entire professional career to serving the public. She began her practice of law representing children in delinquency and protective care cases in New York. She went on to serve as a senior trial attorney and assistant chief for litigation in the fast-paced and demanding Port Authority of New York and New Jersey. She served as an assistant U.S. attorney.

She has taught litigation skills to students at Harvard University Law School and supervised them representing indigent clients appearing in probate and family court.

As a judge sitting in the Massachusetts District and Superior Courts, she has presided over hundreds of trials. She has issued opinions in civil and criminal proceedings, addressing topics including employment discrimination, judicial immunity for testifying witnesses, grand jury integrity, the right against self-incrimination, and public records access. Her opinions suggest a thoughtful, balanced, and evenhanded approach.

Judge Kelley has throughout her career demonstrated one thing above all else, and that is an abiding commitment to our Nation's promise of equal justice under the law. She has been a leader in the Massachusetts judiciary on fulfilling this promise, especially to litigants of color. She has been a friend and mentor to many members of the legal community and their affinity groups, with her nomination receiving strong support from the Massachusetts Black Lawyers Association, the Massachusetts Hispanic Lawyers Association, and the Asian American Lawyers Association of Massachusetts, among others.

At a time when our Federal bench needs both diversity of experience and diversity of background more than ever, Judge Kelley meets the moment with qualifications that are, unfortunately, too rare for Federal judges. It is my sincere hope to see more nominees like Judge Kelley in the near future as we help reshape America's judiciary to better suit the people it serves.

In light of her qualifications, experience, and service, including a unani-

mous "well qualified" rating from the American Bar Association, Judge Kelley received bipartisan support in the Judiciary Committee to advance her nomination. I urge my colleagues to support her nomination here on the floor and vote yes to confirm her so that we can fill a long vacancy on the Massachusetts Federal court with a true, outstandingly qualified jurist who represents the best of our judicial system and our Nation.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Colorado.

NOMINATION OF VERONICA S. ROSSMAN

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, I rise to speak about Veronica Rossman, President Biden's nominee for the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit.

Ms. Rossman comes to this floor with broad legal experience and a sterling reputation in Colorado. Veronica cares deeply about justice and the rule of law because she knows what it means to live without it.

Veronica was born in Russia, where her family faced anti-Semitism at every turn. Her grandparents couldn't openly practice their faith because they feared retaliation at work. Her father was a brilliant career scientist who was routinely denied promotions. Her mother, a talented pianist and music teacher, never openly shared her faith until the family fled Russia.

In the end, Veronica's parents knew that anti-Semitism would stand in the way of her enormous potential, and they wanted her to grow up with a freedom that they never enjoyed. And like so many others in our country's history, Veronica and her family came to America as political refugees.

And from virtually nothing, Veronica built a distinguished legal career. She worked hard and earned a BA from Columbia University, and then a JD from the University of California at Hastings.

She clerked for Justice William Maupin of the Nevada Supreme Court, who could say not enough about her brilliant legal mind. Veronica then practiced appellate litigation at Morrison & Foerster, where she worked on one of the largest international patent cases in history.

Later, she served as a staff attorney for the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, and taught for 3 years at the University of Denver as a visiting professor of law.

In private practice, Veronica specialized in complex civil litigation and handled cases about everything from antitrust law to intellectual property law.

At this point, Veronica could have pursued any number of high-paying legal jobs, but, instead, she became a Federal public defender for the districts of Colorado and Wyoming.

And over the past 12 years, Ms. Rossman developed rare expertise as an appellate specialist, handling direct criminal appeals from every judicial district in the Tenth Circuit.

In her time as a public defender, she has handled or supervised over 100 appellate matters before the Tenth Circuit. She has represented more than 250 indigent clients—from controversial defendants to people sentenced to long terms for a nonviolent offense, even though they had no criminal history.

She fought for every one of those Americans, often against long odds. But more than that, she fought for the American ideal that everyone deserves equal justice under the law.

If confirmed, Veronica would be the only judge on the Tenth Circuit with experience as a public defender. We need more judges like Veronica, who are not only highly qualified, but who know what it means to be on the wrong end of the legal system that too often fails the most vulnerable in our society.

I know some of my Republican colleagues worry about confirming public defenders because they don't know that much about civil procedure. I don't share that view. But in Veronica's case, it doesn't apply anyway. When she was in private practice, as I mentioned, she worked exclusively on civil matters. She taught civil procedure at the University of Denver.

And some others have suggested that public defenders bring in an ideological agenda to the bench. In Veronica's case, that couldn't be further from the truth. Her family's story has proven her profound appreciation for how, at its best, the rule of law is an antidote to the arbitrary administration of law based on prejudice.

And you don't have to take my word for it. Here is what she told the Judiciary Committee under oath. She said:

[I]f confirmed. . . . In every case, I will treat all litigants respectfully and impartially. . . . I will carefully review the record on appeal; I will put aside any personal views; I will faithfully adhere to the rule of law.

Ms. Rossman's qualifications are obvious. She has been a first-rate lawyer, and she would make a first-rate judge. That is why the Judiciary Committee sent her to the floor with a bipartisan vote. Now I hope all of us can come together and confirm this outstanding nominee.

JUDICIAL NOMINATIONS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, this week, the Senate will continue the important work of confirming President Biden's judicial nominees.

From the moment President Biden entered office, Senate Democrats have worked closely with his administration to identify nominees with impeccable credentials and extensive experience. Together, we have worked to restore balance to our Nation's Federal courts by confirming nominees with diverse professional and demographic backgrounds.

Today, I would like to speak in support of three such nominees: David Estudillo, nominated to the Western